



Docket No. 219.40430X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: H. XIE, et al.

Serial No.: 09/964,494

Filed: September 28, 2001

For: ARRANGEMENTS TO INCREASE STRUCTURAL RIGIDITY
SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGE

Group: 2826

Examiner: A. Williams

#9/Election
Andrea
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RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 20, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Election Requirement dated March 11, 2003, applicants provisionally elect the species of Fig. 9. The election is made with traverse. At least claims 1-14, 18-30, 34-46, 50-53, 55-59 and 61-62 read on the elected species. At least independent claims 1, 18, 34, 50, 55 and 61 are believed to be generic to more than one species.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-62 are sufficiently related that the subject matter of one of the species would necessarily encompass the subject matter of the other species. M.P.E.P. §803 clearly states that:

[I]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in this application to avoid unnecessary Patent Office examinations and undue burden on the applicants.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C., area telephone number of (703) 312-6600 to discuss any matter in relation to this application.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 219.40430X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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